

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 2-3 and 16 were pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added through this reply. Claims 2 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter included therein. Therefore, claim 3 is pending. Claim 3 is independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks a timely allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 3 and 16 are indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 3 with the features of independent claim 2 – no intervening claim(s) exist. Therefore, amended independent claim 3 is allowable over prior art.

The Examiner should note that some of the features of original dependent claim 3 were amended to further clarify the claimed invention; for example, the values in the claimed ratios have been replaced with comparisons between different electric power consumptions. No new matter has been added. The features of amended dependent claim 3 are still believed to be allowable over prior art as indicated by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the pending application be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

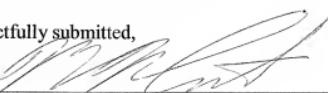
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh Reg. No. 62,278

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 20, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael R. Cammarata
Registration No.: 39,491
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant